

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled) An apparatus for forming an injection molded article, the apparatus comprising
a mold, said mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein,

at least one mold insert sized and dimensioned to be received within said at least one aperture, such that a surface of said insert is substantially contiguous with the surface of said mold cavity, said insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on said surface and

means for retracting said mold insert from said mold after an article has been molded therein, whereby said molded hooks are released from said hook-shaped cavities before said mold is opened.

2. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

3. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) In an ~~[[An]]~~ injection molding apparatus~~[[,]]~~ comprising

a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein,

at least one ~~[[an]]~~ insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being received receivable in a wall of said mold ~~said at least one aperture to~~ define a field of molded hooks on a surface of an article molded in said injection molding apparatus, and

means for retracting said insert from said [mold wall] molded article, the improvement wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

4. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said retractor means is operated by means selected from the group consisting of hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, mechanical, and manual.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said insert comprises a plurality of stacked plates, each plate having one or more hook-shaped cavities formed in one edge thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said insert further comprises one or more spacer plates alternating between said hook-cavity plates.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a molded article, the method comprising, providing a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having ~~[[an]]~~ at least one aperture therein,

providing ~~[[an]]~~ at least one insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being ~~received~~ receivable ~~in a wall of said mold~~ said at least one aperture,

positioning said at least one mold insert in said at least one aperture,

assembling said two or more mold parts to define a mold cavity,

molding an article in said mold cavity, said article having a field of molded hooks formed on a surface thereof, the draft angle of said hook-bearing surface of said molded article being less than about 45°,

retracting said mold insert to release said molded hooks from said mold ~~cavities~~ insert,
and

removing said molded article from said mold cavity.

9. (Canceled) The method of claim 8 wherein the draft angle of the hook-forming surface of the insert is less than about 45°.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said molding step is selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding and blow molding.

11. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) A molded article having a field of hooks integrally formed on a surface thereof, said article formed in a mold having a cavity with a hook forming surface, said hook-bearing surface of said molded article having a draft angle of less than about 45° with respect to ~~said hook-forming surface of~~ the direction of its removal from said mold cavity.

12. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said molded article comprises a plurality of wall members that define a three-dimensional object, at least one surface of at least one of said wall members being a hook-bearing surface, the draft angle of said at least one hook-bearing surface of said at least one wall member being less than about 45°.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein at least a portion of said three-dimensional object is generally in the configuration of a box, and said field of hooks is formed on a surface of a side of said box.
14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said field of hooks is formed on an inner surface of a side of said box.
15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said field of hooks is formed on an outer surface of a side of said box.
16. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said draft angle is substantially 0° .
17. (New) In a method of forming a molded article, the method comprising the steps of (a) providing a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein, (b) providing at least one insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being receivable in said at least one aperture, (c) positioning said at least one mold insert in said at least one aperture, (d) assembling said two or more mold parts to define a mold cavity, (e) molding an article in said mold cavity, said article having a field of molded hooks formed on a surface thereof to define a hook-bearing surface, and (f) removing said molded article from said mold cavity, the improvement comprising the draft angle of said hook-bearing surface of said molded article being less than about 45° , the method including the further step of retracting said mold insert to release said molded hooks from said mold insert prior to removing said molded article from said mold cavity.